

CAPS
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dents from receiving medical treatment in their time of need. "I believe that the administration needs to recognize that many students need more psychological support than they can currently receive from the limited resources of the counseling center," she said.

John Edgerly, director of CAPS, is aware of the criticisms aimed at CAPS, including those leveled in The Daily Tar Heel's letters to the editor. He said he is as shocked as the rest of the University community by the recent suicides.

"It's common to maybe go a year without any suicides," he said. "But I've been here for nearly 21 years, and I've never experienced anything like this."

Not only is it uncommon for multiple suicides to occur in such a short time span, but it's even more unusual for three deaths to occur within a year, he said.

Although officials are concerned about the mental health of students, Edgerly said, the recent student deaths don't imply anything particular about University suicide statistics.

"Averages really don't mean anything," he said. "There have been school years when there have been no deaths at all and years like this one where there are three in one semester."

CAPS saw nearly 2,700 students during the 2001-02 school year - up from the previous year. By comparison, an estimated 1,800 students sought counseling during the fall 2002 semester. "The number of students visiting CAPS during the 2001-02 school year rose by somewhere between 400 and 500," Edgerly said.

"The common assumption is that the number of students seeking help has risen everywhere, not just at Carolina."

Late February to early April is the second busiest time for CAPS. The clinic also sees a large number of students from late September to mid-November.

"These times tend to be high because they follow long breaks," Edgerly said. "Students usually enjoyed their vacations, but when they return to school, tensions are high, they're very busy, and then everything becomes too much to handle."

Because CAPS expects to see more people than normal during this time of year, officials make arrangements to ensure that CAPS is well-staffed to meet all students' needs. "We have two full-time psychologists whose only responsibility is to speak to students whenever there's a need," Edgerly said.

"Any student needing attention can be seen," he said. "The only condition where there's a waiting list is when students want short-term psychotherapy."

Psychotherapy involves helping people solve their psychological problems "through the uncovering of dynamic conscious and unconscious processes affecting a person's adjustment."

"The process also includes a variety of different strategies designed to assist a psychologically troubled person's adjustment, insight and behavior change," Edgerly said.

Despite February being a peak time for CAPS, Edgerly said there has never been a time when a student was turned away. Instead, the abnormality of the suicide incidents has caused Edgerly and others to question whether students are aware of CAPS and other resources for students battling mental illness.

Dean of Students Melissa Exum said the University tries to inform students about their options when they first arrive. "At CTOPS a lot of information is given out about CAPS to both parents and students, but the thing with information is that you never need it until you really need it," Exum said. "So we try to reinforce (the available options) through CAPS."

Exum said it is the responsibility of the entire community to make sure students battling mental illness get help.

"If students or professors - and even parents - notice a change in the daily pattern of a student, then he or she should check in with them and ask if they are doing OK," she said. "If they aren't, then it is our responsibility to make sure they get the help they need."

Sophomore Amanda Fox said CAPS went beyond the call of duty to make sure she was comfortable on her first visit. "It was a really calming atmosphere. Everyone was really helpful," she said.

Fox visited CAPS after her stress level rose to a point she thought was above average.

"The receptionist helped me complete the paperwork, and it was less than 30 minutes before I was seen," she said.

Fox said she scheduled an appointment, met with a counselor, was diagnosed and left with a prescription in less than two hours. "When I walked in, I didn't know what was wrong with me, but I walked out feeling a lot better," she said.

While Fox received treatment in a timely manner, junior Lindsay Varner said she could not receive any treatment.

Varner was diagnosed with clinical depression while in high school. After analyzing her situation, her family

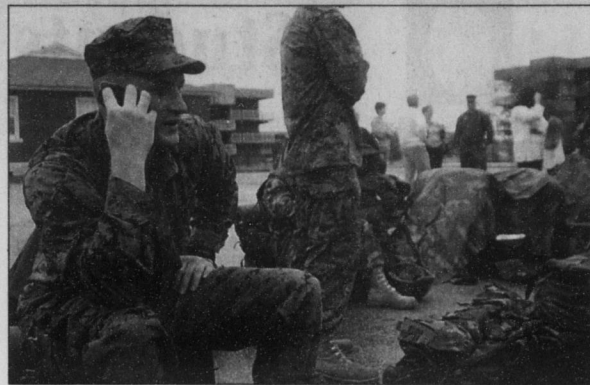
physician put her on a prescription. "My doctor immediately knew that the only thing that would help me would be medication," Varner said.

When she visited CAPS to seek more help for her illness, Varner told the psychiatrist that her personal physician said medication would be her best option. Varner said the psychiatrist discouraged medication and failed to offer alternatives. "They felt like they could handle my problem another way, but they didn't," she said.

Despite these complaints, Exum said that in light of the recent tragedies, the University is striving to ensure that all students are aware of CAPS and other resources for students battling mental illness.

"The reality is that even if we put forth our best effort and give 100 percent, it is impossible to always prevent tragedy," she said. "All we can do is make sure students get the help they need."

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Sgt. John Baily talks on the phone with his father Wednesday before boarding a bus that will take him to the USS Carter Hall.

DTH/JOSHUA GREER

LEJEUNE
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rounds than any other battalion - day and night," Weis said. But he added that the battalion's strategy likely will not put it in situations fit for squaring off rifle-to-rifle with the opposition.

"If we think the enemy is in a building, we're not going to knock down the door and go in," he said. "We're going to blow the building down."

At 9 a.m., BLT 1/8 loaded buses bound for Morehead City to meet up with the USS Carter Hall. After the Carter Hall left its pier in Morehead City, the USS Nashville pulled in behind it to load Marines later Wednesday afternoon.

Capt. James Jarvis, public affairs officer for the 26th MEU, said the Carter Hall will pack artillery, tanks and the majority of the unit's young infantry Marines - about 500.

"When we want to punch them in the mouth, we use the Carter Hall," he said. Some of Weis' men toled rifles, grenade launchers and anti-tank rockets, but they also had guitars, briefcases and a banjo.

Cpl. Dylan Rokos, 23, will switch off between anti-tank rockets and electric guitar for the next eight months.

Dylan Rokos' wife, Jennifer, said the two met three years ago when he was playing guitar for a band in upstate New York. This is the first time Dylan Rokos has gone overseas since training in Norway last year and the first time since his marriage.

The couple commissioned the skill of resident artist Lance Cpl. George Morfin, who is going to sketch a picture of Dylan Rokos in the field. Morfin then will scan the print into electronic form and e-mail it to his father's printing and framing business in Phoenix, where it will be produced and shipped to Jennifer Rokos back in upstate New York.

In exchange, Jennifer pledged to reciprocate the favor.

"I'm going to send the very best cookies, brownies and great care packages," Jennifer said, adding that she kept herself from crying only because of the

large crowd of people. But Michelle Irizarri was not as successful at holding back tears.

She said that her husband had been sent off before and that she is struggling to "stay strong for (her family)," which now has two more children than it did the last time he left.

Out by the pier at Onslow Beach, Marines boarded hovercraft with their gear, already having said their final goodbyes.

They piled onto these air-cushioned landing crafts, or LCACs, in four-bus groups. The LCACs then inflated, turned seaward and shoved off toward the Iwo Jima, sand blasting the pier and forcing onlookers to wince and cover their eyes.

The USS Iwo Jima, commissioned in 1999, is one of the newest ships in the U.S. fleet. It will serve as the command and control platform for the three other ships for the next eight months.

When the nearly 1,500 Marines arrived on the Iwo Jima on Wednesday, there were already about 2,000 sailors waiting for them.

The Nashville is equipped to serve as the secondary source of command and control for the envoy, with boat raid capabilities and the bulk of the group's sustainment, Jarvis added.

Spectators who braved the sandstorms included clusters of Marine officers who came to watch friends depart, as well as some lingering family members.

Two Marines who said they will stay behind to perform administrative duties on base marveled at one of the LCACs. Grinning, they agreed that they both wished they were packing onto the craft with their friends.

Rebecca Lemire, who has been a Marine wife since her husband joined in 1987, said she purposely came to the pier to see her husband off in order to resist a long, drawn out send-off.

"You have this feeling that you just want to grab onto them and not let them go," she said. "That's just part of the military, but that doesn't make it any easier."

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INSURANCE
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rather than 40 percent, a reduction she said has had destructive consequences.

"I think I've had more people this year who have said they can't afford to come see me than in the past," Hattem said. "I think it would be really nice if they went back to the 50-50 split."

Every year the Student Health Advisory Board - comprising 10 students, faculty and employee appointees - meets to review the insurance policy offered to students and suggest the best balance of costs and benefits. Their suggestions are reviewed by University officials.

On Monday, this year's appointees started to review next year's policy, which will go into effect sometime in mid-August. Michael Poock, associate dean of the Graduate School and chairman of the board, said the group will re-

evaluate all aspects of the plan, including the mental health component.

"The current student medical plan is as good as, if not better than, any plan you'll find in the country," said Bob Wirag, director of Student Health Service. "When you consider what the premium is and the benefits are, this is truly an outstanding student plan."

Hattem said it can take two to three months for BlueCross BlueShield to pay its end of the bill, a delay she thinks further jeopardizes mental health.

"By the time people get to therapy, they're feeling really bad and don't have the energy to make a phone call to fight with BlueCross," Hattem said.

Students with other health insurance plans also can have problems finding assistance for mental problems, said public policy Professor Daniel Gitterman, who specializes in mental health insurance.

Gitterman said many students aren't aware of their benefits. Dependent stu-

dents who are aware often don't want their parents to know they are seeking outside help, a problem that usually only can be solved by paying out-of-pocket.

Hattem, who is disillusioned with the health insurance system, allows patients to pay on a sliding scale - they pay a certain percentage of their income rather than a fixed rate. Hattem also has allowed dependent students who do not want their parents to know about their conditions to pay based on their own incomes.

Gitterman said the coverage of mental health insurance needs to be addressed on a national and local level.

"The question is, Who bears the cost?" he said. "That is a question for the students. Are they willing to pay higher premiums for mental health services? That's a discussion that should maybe take place on this campus."

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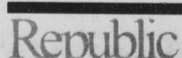
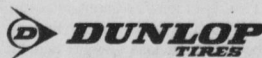
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BUDGET
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the kind of problem you want," he said. "We'll come out in the work force more competitive because of it."

Easley also left the system's overhead receipts, millions of dollars generated by university research, untouched and provided about \$10 million in need-based financial aid funding.

Budgeting is ultimately the responsibility of the N.C. General Assembly, and legislators said Wednesday that they will have to delve deep in Easley's budget proposal before acting on it.

Legislators reserve the right to alter any of the governor's proposed appropriations or scrap his budget altogether.

But Easley has threatened to veto any budget bill that doesn't meet his approval and has requested the authority to veto individual items in the budget.

Though it is unlikely legislators will grant him line-item veto authority, Easley will eye appropriations closely and has even proposed a 5.9 percent expansion cap for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Even at \$15 billion, Easley's budget falls \$165 million below that cap, according to his estimates.

"If we experience growth, I'd be tickled to death," Easley said. "But (the cap ensures) we don't go on a spending spree so next year we have a hole."

Lawmakers agree they must avoid the spending spree of the early '90s, but many, like Rep. Martin Nesbitt, D-Buncombe, say they don't want to be trapped into a low level of appropriations growth coming out of a recession.

Nesbitt said, "You can't sit here and look at funds and not address the needs."

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Budgeting the University	
	2003-04
Permanent cut to the system's infrastructure budget	\$20,649,835
One-time cut	\$13,889,896
Permanent cuts to be taken from any area of campuses' operating budgets	\$44,768,948
Cuts to special campus medical programs such as UNC Hospitals	\$3,094,989
Full funding for enrollment growth	\$46,550,409
Funding for need-based financial aid growth	\$10,250,000
Total Recommended Reductions	\$82,403,668

SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S BUDGET DOCUMENTS
DTH/AMY BLANTON & JEE